

REMARKS

The Examiners allowance of claims 7 and 8 is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. (U.S. 6,603,453) in view of Yamazaki et al. (US 2001/0052950 A1) and Satou et al (6,864,134). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because the Satou et al. reference is not prior art to the subject application.

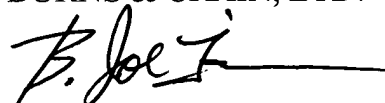
Applicants claimed foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119 on the basis of Japanese Patent Application No. 202-197880, which was filed on July 5, 2002. The foreign priority date of the subject application antedates the U.S. filing date, April 29, 2003, of the Satou et al. reference. A certified English translation of the priority document is enclosed. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants now believe that the application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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